

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Currently Amended) ~~The front fork unit of Claim 3,~~ A front fork unit of a bicycle comprising:
 - a fork body;
 - an outer tube disposed above and movable relative to said fork body in a longitudinal direction;
 - a shock absorber interposed between and secured to said fork body and said outer tube so as to provide a shock absorbing effect to said front fork unit during movement of said outer tube relative to said fork body in said longitudinal direction;
 - an inner tube disposed in said outer tube and secured to said fork body;
 - a fastening member including a top inner block secured to said top end of said outer tube, upper and lower washers sandwiching said resistance-providing member therebetween, a tubular upper spacer extending between and abutting against said top inner block and said upper washer, a tubular lower spacer disposed in said through-hole and abutting against said upper and lower washers, a screw bolt extending through said lower washer, said lower and upper spacers, and said top inner block, and a screw nut engaging threadedly said screw bolt so as to

prevent undesired removal of said resistance-providing member from said fastening member;

a resistance-providing member secured to one of said inner and outer tubes and in sliding and frictional contact with the other of said inner and outer tubes so as to provide a resistance to movement of said outer tube relative to said fork body in said longitudinal direction, said resistance-providing member being secured to said outer tube through said fastening member;

wherein said inner tube has an inner tube surface and a top end formed with a top inner flange extending inwardly and radially therefrom, said resistance-providing member being disposed in said inner tube, being in sliding and frictional contact with said inner tube surface of said inner tube, and abutting against said top inner flange of said inner tube when said outer tube is moved to a highest position relative to said fork body; and

wherein said outer tube has a top end, said resistance-providing member being annular in shape, having top and bottom end faces, and defining a through-hole extending from said top end face to said bottom end face of said resistance-providing member, ~~said fastening member including a top inner block secured to said top end of said outer tube, upper and lower washers sandwiching said resistance-providing member therebetween, a tubular upper spacer extending between and abutting against said top inner block and said upper washer, a tubular lower spacer disposed in said through-hole and abutting against said upper and lower washers, a screw bolt extending through said lower washer, said lower and upper spacers, and said top inner block, and a screw nut engaging threadedly said~~

~~screw bolt so as to prevent undesired removal of said resistance-providing member from said fastening member.~~

5. (Original) The front fork unit of Claim 4, wherein said fastening member further includes an elastic cushion sleeved on said upper spacer and abutting against said top inner block, said top inner flange of said inner tube abutting against said cushion when said outer tube is moved to a lowest position lower than said highest position.

6. (Original) The front fork unit of Claim 5, wherein said resistance-providing member has an annular outer surface formed with a plurality of alternately disposed annular grooves and annular ribs, said ribs being in sliding contact with said inner tube surface of said inner tube.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)